

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 14, 20, and 22-27 remain pending in the present Application. Claims 11-13, 15, 17-19, 21, and 28-35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. This Amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which permits entering of Amendments canceling claims. As the present Amendment cancels all claims which do not presently stand allowed, this Amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the present Amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,584,023); Claims 15, 17-19, 21, and 28-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Iwayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,832,083, hereinafter Iwayama); and, Claims 3 and 16 stand objected to being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter as recited in Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 14, 20, and 22-27.

As Claims 11-13, 15, 17-19, 21 and 28-35 have been canceled, and Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 14, 20, and 22-27 stand allowed, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections pertaining to Claims 11-13, 15, 17-19, 21 and 28-35 have been rendered moot, and the Application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 14, 20, and 22-27, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this Application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

BDL:SAM:yes

Scott A. McKeown
Registration No. 42,866

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